

RESOURCES TO OPPOSE LEGALIZED
PHYSICIAN ASSISTED SUICIDE
HOMILY HINTS | MARYLAND 2024

SUNDAY, FEB. 11, 2024

[Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46](#) | [1 Cor 10:31–11:1](#) | [Mark 1:40-45](#)

Key Points

- Those with severe illness are often pushed aside and discarded by society – this is how advocates of assisted suicide treat the sick, elderly, and dying.
- But Jesus calls us to a higher standard – to recognize the inherent dignity of the most sick and vulnerable in our society and support and care for them.
- The Maryland General Assembly currently is considering a bill to legalize assisted suicide – please follow Jesus' call and contact the legislature and tell them to vote no on the bill.

Additional Ideas

- The first reading shows us how severely illness can impact people, both physically and spiritually. In ancient times, the severity and contagiousness of leprosy would force people into isolation and created a powerful stigma around lepers.
- In our own time, even with incredible medical advancements, there often is still a stigma surrounding the poor, sick and elderly. It is easy for our society, which is so focused on productivity, to label them as burdens and dismiss their lives as not worth living.
- Often, this dismissive attitude and neglect for the inherent dignity of these people is disguised as compassion. This is seen especially in advocacy for assisted suicide. Advocates claim that suicide is actually what is best for the sick person or for society as a whole. But ultimately support for assisted suicide rests on the view that the poor, sick or elderly do not have value anymore.
- In the Gospel, we see Jesus reject this view and challenge us to live up to a higher standard of compassion that recognizes the dignity and value of every human life. Despite his whole society telling him that rejection of lepers is right and despite the powerful stigma against being near them, Jesus, in a defiant recognition of the man's inherent dignity and value, reaches out and touches the leper to heal him.
- We too are called to reach out and stand up for the inherent dignity and value of the sick and vulnerable, even while our society is telling us to reject them. The Maryland General Assembly is currently considering a bill to legalize assisted suicide in the state of Maryland. This bill treats the most sick and vulnerable in our society as burdens whose lives are no longer worth living. Let us stand up for the dignity of every person and imitate Jesus by contacting our state representatives to tell them to vote no to legalizing physician assisted suicide.